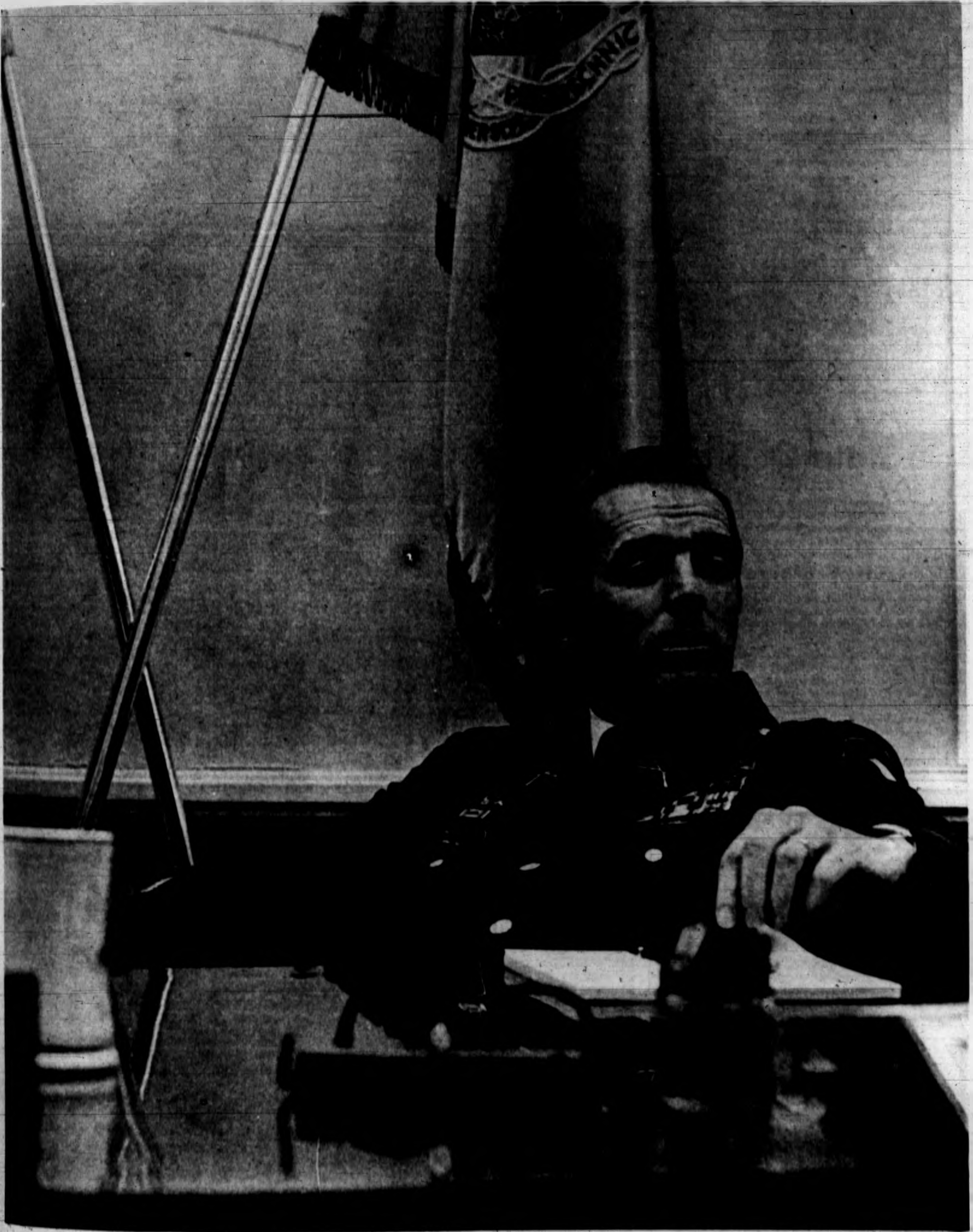


Mustang Daily

Volume 40 Number 46

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Thursday, January 22, 1976



ROTC Is Marching Back

See story on page 4

Cover photo by Mike Shafer

Band Exceeds Budget

It will take a lot more than the charm of music to soothe the savage beast of inflation which has beset the "Pride of the Pacific."

The Cal Poly Marching Band has found it difficult to live within its means. Band conductor and associate professor of music William Johnson said in a Mustang Daily story that inflation has shaven an estimated 20 per cent of the band's funds in the last two years. The marching band's budget is \$5,726.

The band has had to bite the bullet like every other group on campus. Its budget hasn't been cut but it hasn't been raised either.

Gov. Edmund Brown has been telling us to lower our expectations. The marching band is learning this is more than an abstract notion.

When it traveled to Long Beach State for the Cal Poly-Long Beach football game, the band overspent \$1,500. Unlike New York City, the band shouldn't expect the government to come to the rescue.

The Associated Students, Inc. has enough demands placed on it from campus groups that need funds without having to

make up the difference when they spend too much.

If it's too expensive for the band to travel than it should stay home. Anyone who has watched the band practice for its halftime shows knows how hard it works. It's prestigious for the band and the university for it to go on the road and perform. But prestige is a luxury the ASI can't afford.

It would be difficult to justify increasing the band's budget in view of the Student Affairs Council's generosity last spring in granting \$20,000 to the symphonic band for its tour last summer to Vienna.

Other campus organizations were left out in the cold when such a large amount of money was given to one group. Technically the marching band and symphonic band are two different groups. But the symphonic band is composed of 80 musicians from the marching band.

Band conductor Johnson pointed out other groups would have to be cut for the band to get more money. The band will have to content itself with its memories of Vienna. When budget time rolls around it should be someone else's turn to get a bigger piece of the action.

CB



State Of The Union Message: A Disappointment

Judged as a political document aimed at improving his position among Republicans against the election-year challenge of Ronald Reagan, President Ford's State of the Union message may have been a success. By any other standard, it was a disappointment.

The President expressed in the opening minutes of his speech a pride of country appropriate in this bicentennial year. And he was able to report that the economic outlook is brighter than it was a year ago, when the country was suffering the simultaneous pangs of double-digit inflation and deep recession.

To make sure that economic recovery continues, Ford's proposal for an additional \$10 billion federal income-tax cut is well taken. So is his call for restraint on spending, though reasonable men will disagree over where the line should be drawn. His proposal for changes in the inheritance-tax laws, aimed at making it possible for family farms and businesses to be passed on from one generation to another, strikes as a sensible in concept.

Taken as a whole, however, the President's address was a bleak, uninspired document that was long on rhetoric about

welfare cheats and food-stamp "scandals" and woefully short on real programs to deal with real problems.

Aside from proposing an extension of federal revenue sharing, for example, Ford did not even mention the acute financial plight of the cities.

One of the most sensible things the federal government could do to help avoid the proliferation of New York-type

Another Viewpoint

crises would be to federalize the welfare system as a part of a fundamental reform depending more on work incentives and less bureaucratic policing to get at the problem of welfare cheating.

Since the increase in federal welfare spending would be offset by decreases in state and local spending, there would be no great increase in the total burden on taxpayers.

Yet the president, while getting in some shots at welfare abuses, proposes nothing more than tighter rules for eligibility and benefits.

Ford correctly observed that very few Americans can afford

to pay medical bills resulting from catastrophic illnesses. But after asserting that "we must eliminate this fear from every family," he proposed only that catastrophic health insurance be provided to Medicare patients.

It may be there is no room in a recession-constrained budget for an expensive new national health insurance program. But the need is real and pressing, and in any case it would take two years or more to legislate and implement such a program. Ford's credentials as a national leader would look a lot more impressive if he put Congress to the challenge of starting the process now.

Even more disturbing is the seemingly low priority that the President is giving to the most urgent national problem of all: unemployment. More than 7 million Americans remain jobless, and there is nothing in his program that promises to make much of a dent in that figure in the months ahead-even if the recovery from recession continues.

Ford's vow not to promise more than can be delivered is well taken. But the country will not be well served by a national leadership that underestimates what can be done, even in an era of fiscal limitations.

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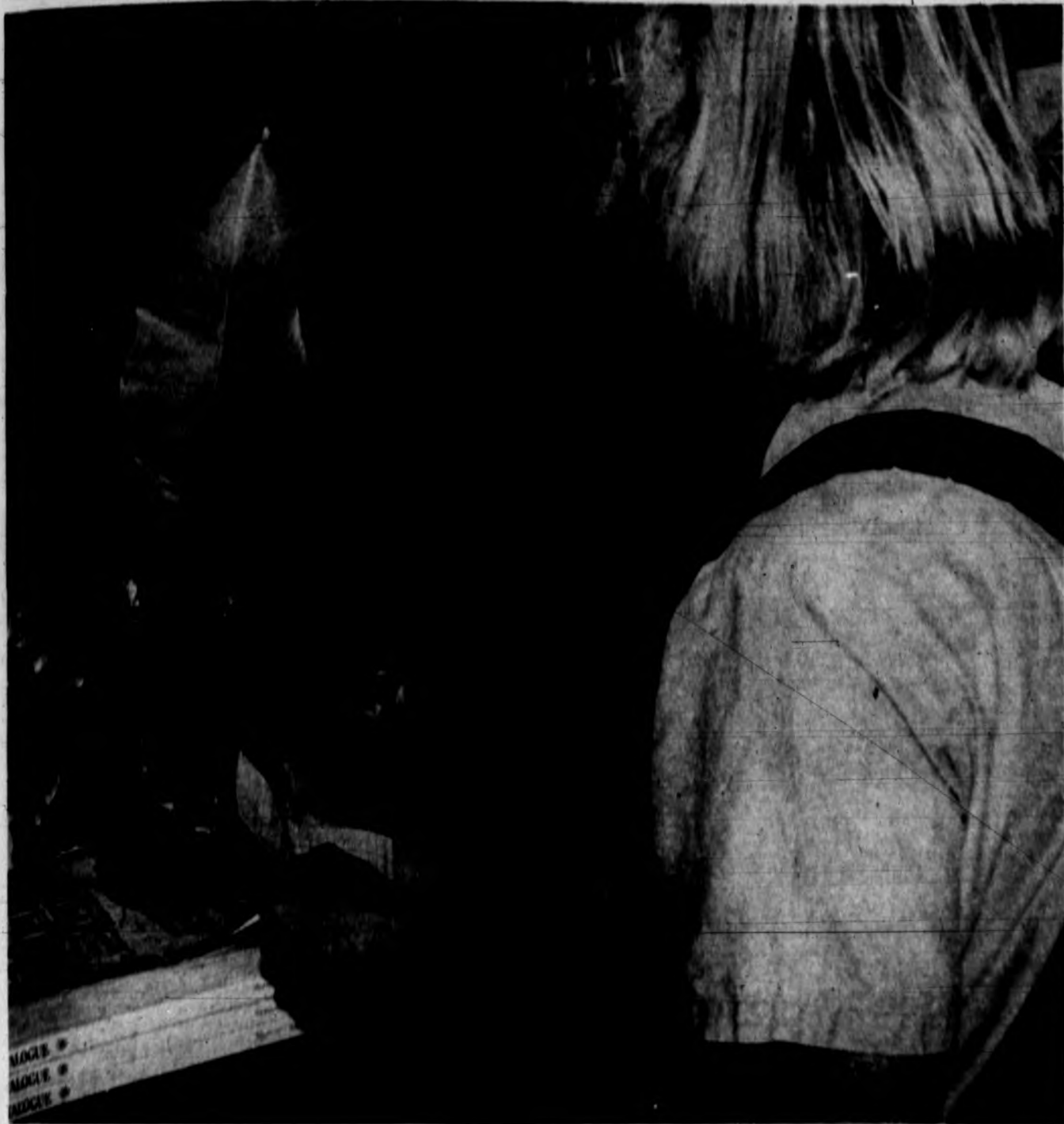
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Weather

Fair through Friday. A little cooler.
Lows in the 30s. Highs in the 70s.
Mediums in the 50s, light winds.

Mustang Daily welcomes letters from all viewpoints. Length of letters should be limited to 150 words—typed and double spaced. Letters will not be published without a signature and

student I.D. number. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Sorry, but no poetry is accepted. Bring letters to Graphic Arts, Room 226.



Pedals of plants...and dollars (Daily photo).

Everything's Coming Up Roses; Plant Business Starting To Bud

by MERRILL McCARTY
Daily Staff Writer

Walk into any student's apartment and you may see a few wandering around the coffee table, Charlie on top of the bookshelf, and a spider hanging from the ceiling.

These strange denizens, however, are not animate and definitely not dangerous. They just mildly do their thing for people involved in a booming nationwide fad.

Plants.

Wandering Jews, Creeping Charlies, and Spider Plants are some of the more popular varieties of houseplants in an industry that has doubled its production in California in the last three years.

What has brought all this on?

To ask the plant buyers themselves brings largely indefinite answers. Interest in ecology, satisfaction in caring for something, and company are the reasons given most often.

Dr. Howard C. Brown, head of the Ornamental Horticulture Department, had another idea on the reasons.

"Business in OH," he said, "has always been good in times of stress such as depression or a recession. Plants serve as an emotional outlet, a tranquilizing activity."

Jeremy Wakefield, of Central Park West, a local plant store, thinks that "plants have become a fad because people are staying home more, due to the energy crisis, and are paying more attention to their own small environment."

Interest in the environment, or being natural, seems to be the predominant theme of the plant explosion.

One slightly grumpy plant owner said, "Yeah, everyone has to be organic nowadays, and I fell into the trap."

As to who is buying the plants, everyone seems to agree that it is largely young people. Nina Harris, of The Greenery, an indoor plant outlet described customers of the shop as "people under 36 and old ladies, but the real business comes from young people."

And business is doing just fine, thank you. Brown quotes figures showing \$29 million worth of potted plants produced in California in 1972, and \$158.5 million produced in 1974. The figures are still climbing both statewide and on a national basis.

Locally, plant shops have sprung up like wild flowers, seemingly a great majority of them within the last two years. The phone book lists a column-and-a-half of plant shops in the local area alone.

As to success, everyone seems to be doing well enough. Many stores have rapidly rising sales rates, while others are feeling the pinch of competition.

"About three years ago," said Caroline Mossatt of Rustic Gardens Nursery, "our business increased for about two

years. We were the only ones in town that sold houseplants. Then everyone decided this was good to get into, and our business share of the boom has leveled off."

Many stores are selling plants as a sideline, helping to spread interest.

"Supermarkets," said Brown, "have brought plants into the hands of people who would not normally have gone to a nursery or a plant store. Most of these sales are impulsive."

See plants page 6



You can't see the plants for the....plants (Daily photo)



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ROTC



ROTC student Richard Slezak (Daily photo by Michael Shaler)

Troops Fall In As Program Builds

by STEVE WARNOFF
Daily Staff Writer

In the late 1960s one of the main concerns on college campuses was the conflict in Viet Nam. Anti-war demonstrations triggered anti-military actions across the nation.

Since that period, feelings have generally cooled down. Student actions against the Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) program have, like Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young's protest songs, become golden oldies.

The ROTC program at Cal Poly, which was founded in 1952, is now trying to rebuild its program. It is a concern is with students interested in some form of armed services after graduation from college.

The ROTC is responsible for the military science studies on campus. The departmental courses are open for any student wishing to take a course from Military Science to World Affairs.

The participant usually begins the program in his freshman year. At the beginning of his junior year he begins to receive \$100 a month after swearing to participate in some form of military duty after graduation from college.

The ROTC program at Cal Poly supports 189 students, which includes 26 women.

Colonel Robert McKee, ROTC Commander at Cal Poly said, "After college, jobs are hard to come by. The students active in ROTC obtain a job in the military that involves leadership and management of men. Most college graduates don't go into leadership positions."

According to McKee the main goal of the ROTC program is to obtain well educated officers in sufficient numbers to support the United States military.

Since the days of protest over the Viet Nam war, the number of students in the program has declined.

According to McKee the large ROTC program of the late 60s was due to the large number of students that joined to avoid the draft.

The ROTC program is slowly starting to rebuild itself at Cal Poly, but McKee says the all-volunteer army is keeping the number of enlistments down because there is no draft to fear.

Whatever the amount, the students in ROTC are active in all areas of military programs on campus. One Saturday a month they are engaged in "hands on" training. "Hands on" training applies the practice for what they learn in the classroom.

Clubs like the Scabbard and Blade perform services for the community and are presently involved in planning a military ball. Another program is the Color Guard which

represents the military in football games, assorted ceremonies and parades.

According to McKee, ROTC women keep up with the men.

McKee says, "Women do exactly what the men do, except for offensive and defensive operations (actual combat practice). I feel that the women are a valuable part of the program."

Field Training Exercises (FTX) are an important part of the ROTC program. During FTX, participation in combat situations help train the student. Dismantled weapons are used during the learning sessions.

Richard Slezak, economics major and ROTC member exalts the program.

"I'd join an ROTC program anywhere. I have a strong sense of duty for my country. The army needs men, and here we are continually in training and improving our tactics to be assured of victory for the United States Army."

"The hundred dollars a month didn't sound bad either."

According to Slezak, the program will afford him the flying lessons at the Santa Maria airport during his senior year.

**'I have a strong sense
of duty for my country.'**

"I feel that those who want to become future officers have some knowledge of what duty is," says Slezak between pulls on his cigar. "we expect to be treated like adults in the ROTC. Here, I'm happy to say we're treated as future soldiers."

Scott Maughum, History Professor has this to say about ROTC: "The ROTC insures that officers recognize that in America the military serves our political and cultural system," says Maughum.

As with any institution in our country, the ROTC has its problems.

"The Army is resource oriented," says McKee. "We try to use our resources wisely, we have to fight for our money and live with what we get."

Most of the problems of society are found in military programs, all the good and bad, the same as the community," said McKee. "The Army is a representation of the country itself. If the military becomes separate from the society we're in bad trouble, because the Army represents the people."

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Ford's Son Dates Chris Evert

WASHINGTON UPI - Is there a budding romance between President Ford's son Jack and tennis star Chris Evert? Maybe.

"They enjoy each other's company," said Sheila Weidenfeld, the first lady's press secretary.

Jack, 29, and Chris, 21, got acquainted Tuesday and had their first dinner date in the evening. At his invitation, she will be coming to lunch at the White House.

Supersonic Jet Travel

UPI - With a mighty roar of jet engines and publicity, Britain and France Wednesday launched the age of international supersonic passenger travel.

"The day of glory has arrived," proclaimed Air France and British Airways, the only airlines to order the 100-seat Concorde jets designed to fly at twice the speed of sound.

Identical Anglo-French Concordes lifted off Wednesday from London's Heathrow airport for Bahrain on the Persian Gulf and from Charles de Gaulle field north of Paris for Rio de Janeiro.

The British Airways Concorde made the 3,515-mile London-Bahrain flight in three hours, 38 minutes — a savings of two hours.

The French jet made the 5,260-mile trip to Rio—with a refueling stop in Dakar, Senegal—in seven hours, 27 minutes, a saving of four hours and 35 minutes.

School Wants Representative

Student Affairs Council needs a representative from the school of Engineering and Technology. Interested persons should attend a School Council meeting on Wed. at 5 p.m. in Rm. 220 in the University Union. Applicants could also contact Al Frame by leaving a message in the ASI office or call 516-1291. Elections will be held at a School Council meeting.

Auto Executive Hospitalized

ANN ARBOR, Mich. UPI - Physicians attending Ford Motor Co. Chairman Henry Ford II said Wednesday that the auto executive, who was hospitalized earlier this week, was suffering from a heart ailment.

The ailment was diagnosed as angina pectoris, a fairly common abnormality of the cardiovascular system characterized by chest pains. Ford, who has been chief executive of the No. 2 auto company since 1945, is 58.

Doctors said he would remain at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital for at least a week and would postpone a planned trip through the Far East which was to have included a one-week business trip to the People's Republic of China.

Portraits Of MesoAmerica

A multi-media show, entitled Portraits of MesoAmerica, will be presented by Sharad Attre, Assistant Professor from the School of Architecture and Environmental Design. The show is a photographic essay revealing life, religion, art and architecture. It will be in the Architecture Gallery Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 26 and 27, 1976. There will be two showings each day at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., lasting half-an-hour. Everybody is invited.

Engineering Exam Filing Date

The final filing date for the April 10, 1976 E.I.T. (Engineer-in-Training) Exam is this coming Monday, January 26, 1976. Applications for this state exam can be obtained from the Dean of Engineering office in the Computer Science building. A \$40 fee must be included with the application.

IRS Again Investigating Nixon

WASHINGTON UPI - The Internal Revenue Service again is investigating the \$450,000 tax deduction Richard M. Nixon took for his vice presidential papers, it was reported Wednesday.

The IRS stopped an audit in 1974, concluding it did not have the evidence to prosecute the former president for civil tax fraud.

But the Washington Post and the New York Times reported the IRS believes it may be able to prove Nixon knew about a back-dated deed claiming an illegal deduction when he gave the papers to the National Archives.

IRS officials would not confirm or deny the reports. The agency never discusses individual tax returns.

Presidential Press Secretary Ron Nease said the White House knew nothing of an IRS investigation and even if there was one the executive branch would not be notified of it.

Although President Ford pardoned Nixon for any crimes he may have committed when Nixon was president, the reports said, the IRS was trying to determine whether Nixon should have to pay fraud penalties in connection with a conspiracy to back-date the documents.

If fraud is found, Nixon could have to pay \$222,121.45, of which \$148,080.97 would be for a 1969 tax deficiency the IRS found in 1974, and \$74,040.48 would be a 50-per-cent penalty for fraud, the papers said.

Nixon, who could challenge a fraud assessment, did not have to pay the 1969 tax deficiency because the three-year statute of limitations expired — but fraud has no statute of limitations and makes the deficiency collectable.

When the back-dating of the deed was known, Nixon lost the \$450,000 deduction he had taken. In 1974, he paid \$284,706.16 in taxes and penalties for his 1970-72 returns, and said he would pay the 1969 deficiency. He has not.

Senate Panel May Control CIA Operations

WASHINGTON UPI - Chairman Frank Church of the Senate intelligence committee proposed Wednesday that a single Senate panel be given strict control over the CIA and virtually all other U.S. intelligence operations.

He made the proposal as the House intelligence committee met in closed session and rejected 8 to 4 a proposal that details of covert American operations be excluded from the panel's final report.

The two special committees were created following allegations of improper and illegal activities by the CIA and other government agencies in the intelligence fields. Both are working on final reports.

The proposal at the House committee was submitted by Rep. Dale Milford, D-Tex., and was similar to a White House request. Milford said he was "seriously concerned about certain classified information" in the staff draft of the committee's report.

Plants: Everything's Coming Up Roses

(Continued from page 1)

And once a person has bought a plant, they usually get interested and stay with it."

Another reason cited by Brown for the increasing sales is the growing number of apartment and condominium dwellers. "They can't have gardens, so they have houseplants."

The most popular varieties are Wandering Jew, Creeping Charlie, and the Coleus. These plants are hardy, in fact "impossible to kill," according to one buyer, and easily regrown from cuttings.

However, because they are easily grown, sales of these plants are beginning to drop off. Boston and Roosevelt Ferns are becoming more popular, possibly because they are more difficult to grow.

The cost of the more common plants is dropping, while the rarer plants are becoming more expensive.

Another indicator for the rising interest in plants is on the academic scene.

Figures from the OH department show that there were 110 majors in 1965. This rose to 243 in 1970, and as of last year reached a whopping 721.

"The boom has definitely helped in employment opportunities for OH graduates," said Brown. Apparently OH majors don't have to worry about getting a job after graduation.

What's in the future for plants?

Jerry Noble, owner of the Pecho Farm Nursery says, "The houseplants are already going downhill. People are becoming more sophisticated and want more exotic plants, especially sturdier ones." Noble feels that indoor trees and shrubs are the thing of the future.

And according to Brown, "Some economists are already predicting a bust in the business because production has gone up so rapidly."

But plants have not reached the saturation point yet. Noble's wife, Phyllis, says "We can't grow them fast enough." And wholesalers are doing big business.

Brown is optimistic about the future, whatever form it takes.

"Most people buying plants develop a real interest, which will continue. They become real plant lovers."



'Since we started rehearsing

I haven't stopped...literally.

'Don't dance on the wet paint!

...and don't step on Mike.'

Photos by Tony Hertz



'Sea Of Dames' Sets Sail Friday In San Luis

by SUSIE WHITE
Daily Staff Writer

Dames at Sea is about ready to be christened, and it looks like smooth sailing from now on.

The play, presented by the San Luis Obispo Little Theater, opens Friday for its extended eight day run.

If dress rehearsals are any measuring stick for successful musical-comedy productions then Dames, as it is affectionately called by the cast and director alike, is headed for leg-breaking good luck.

Directed and choreographed by Michael Quijada, a counselor for Cal Poly's Hep program as well as a Broadway veteran, he lends a professional touch to the play. His stamp of approval has gone on everything from the simplest dance step to the lighting and sets.

"Since we started rehearsing I haven't stopped, literally," said Quijada, slumped in one of the theater chairs. "I really have put in a lot of time including all my Saturdays and Sundays, but it's worth it."

The time Quijada has spent is beginning to pay off, although there are still some bugs to iron out before opening

night. The pianos need tuning and costumes must figure some way to keep the sailor hats on the sailor's heads, but these are the kinds of problems directors don't mind having.

The story of Dames at Sea involves a sweet, young farm girl fresh off a bus from Utah, who arrives on Broadway, with only her treasured dancing shoes. Ruby's ready for her big break and gets her chance with a show whose director has had 12 flops in a row. The story is high camp and straight out of an old 1930's Busby-Berkeley musical.

The sets are designed by Michael Brooks who recaptures the glitter and glamour of the time. Brooks, a professional set designer, has worked on both live and television productions in Los Angeles. He's also the director's friend.

"I'm just doing this as a favor for Michael; we went to school together at the University of California at Santa Cruz. It's fun and I'm glad to be able to help him out."

At rehearsal Brooks crawled on his hands and knees, paint brush in hand, as he worked diligently on his ingenious make-believe creations. He designed the sets to create the illusion of having a larger cast in certain scenes. By using mylar, a mirrored paper, he can make 11 dancers look like the New York Rockettes.

Meanwhile back at rehearsal the director is shouting wise words to the cast, "Don't dance on the wet paint! Step over those boards and don't step on Mike!"

Not even slowing down for wet paint, the cast kept going forgetting their tired feet and weary voices. Every available table in the small theatre was strewn with overflowing ashtrays and half-filled coffee cups. Empty food wrappers from nearby Artie Circle remain as evidence of how many quick meals the cast and crew have grabbed between numbers.

One cast member claims they go there so often that they're almost wearing out their welcome, if that's possible.

"I can't count the times we've come over here ordering a dozen cups of coffee and emptying their whole pot."

Drinking a lot of that coffee as well as starring in Dames are Marc Van Atta as Dick, who also designed the costumes, Debbie Windsor as Ruby and Lisa Hatfield as Mona.

The play will run Jan. 23 through the 25th and from the 29th to Feb. 1, at the San Luis Obispo Little Theater, 1530 Monterey. Tickets are on sale now; adults \$2.50, students \$1.75 and senior citizens \$1. For reservations call 543-9754.

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